

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (original) A contact lens comprising:
a contact lens body comprising a hydrophilic polymeric material and a water soluble polymer component, the contact lens body being ready for use in an eye.

Claim 2. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component is in intimate admixture with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

Claim 3. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component is ophthalmically acceptable.

Claim 4. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component is derived from a diluent material used during polymerization of the hydrophilic polymeric material.

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (original) The contact lens of claim 4 wherein the contact lens body is produced using wet cast molding.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The contact lens of claim 1 which is structured to be disposed of after a single use in an eye, and the contact lens body has an increased modulus relative to an identical lens body in which the water soluble polymer component is replaced with water.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the contact lens body is configured so that at least a portion of the water soluble polymer component leaves the contact lens body during use of the contact lens body in an eye.

Claim 11. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component and the hydrophilic polymeric material form an interpenetrating network or a psuedo interpenetrating network.

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (currently amended) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material is obtained by polymerization of at least one hydrophilic monomeric component and at least one cross-linking monomeric component.

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of hydrophillic vinylic monomers, such as vinyl (C₄-C₄₅)alkyl ethers, vinyl (C₇-C₄₉) alkenoic acids and the like and mixtures thereof; hydroxy substituted (C₅-C₄₅) alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl and polyalkoxy-alkyl and mono- or bi-cycloaliphatic fumarates, maleates, acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides and methacrylamides, and the like and mixtures thereof; acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, the corresponding amino or mono- and di-(lower

alkyl) amino substituted acrylic monomers and the like and mixtures thereof; and vinyl-lactams and the like and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17. (original) The contact lens of claim 1 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene glycols, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polymethacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18. (original) A package system comprising:

a contact lens ready for use in an eye and comprising a contact lens body comprising a hydrophilic polymeric material and a water soluble polymer component;

a liquid medium comprising an amount of the water soluble polymer component in addition to that present in the contact lens body; and

a container holding the contact lens and the liquid medium.

Claim 19. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the container is structured to hold the contact lens in contact with the liquid medium and the liquid medium includes the water soluble polymer component prior to the liquid medium being placed in contact with the contact lens.

Claim 20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) The package system of claim 12 wherein the water soluble polymer component in the contact lens body is derived from a diluent material used during polymerization of the hydrophilic polymeric material, and the contact lens body is produced using wet cast molding.

Claim 23. (canceled)

Claim 24. (currently amended) The package system of claim 18 wherein the contact lens is structured to be disposed of after a single use in an eye, and the contact lens body has an increased modulus relative to an identical lens body in which the water soluble polymer component is replaced with water.

Claim 25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the water soluble polymer component in the contact lens body is physically immobilized by the hydrophilic polymeric material.

Claim 27. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the contact lens body is configured so that at least a portion of the water soluble polymer component leaves the contact lens body during use of the contact lens body in an eye.

Claim 28. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the water soluble polymer component and the hydrophilic polymeric material form an interpenetrating network or a psuedo interpenetrating network.

Claim 29. (canceled)

Claim 30. (original) The package system of claim 12 wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material is obtained by polymerization of at least one hydrophilic monomeric component and at least one cross-linking monomeric component.

Claim 31. (canceled)

Claim 32. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of hydrophillic vinylic monomers, such as vinyl (C₄-C₄₅)alkyl ethers, vinyl (C₇-C₄₉) alkenoic acids and the like and mixtures thereof; hydroxy substituted (C₅-C₄₅) alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl and polyalkoxy-alkyl and mono- or bi-cycloaliphatic fumarates, maleates, acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides and methacrylamides, and the like and mixtures thereof; acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, the corresponding amino or mono- and di-(lower alkyl) amino substituted acrylic monomers and the like and mixtures thereof; and vinyl-lactams and the like and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33. (original) The package system of claim 18 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene glycols, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polymethacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 34. (original) A method of producing a contact lens, the method comprising

polymerizing at least one hydrophilic monomeric component in the presence of a water soluble polymer component to form a contact lens body comprising a hydrophilic polymeric material and the water soluble polymer component; and

placing the contact lens body in a packaging container.

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the polymerizing step is a solution polymerization step.

Claim 36. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the water soluble polymer component is included in a diluent used during the polymerizing step, and the polymerizing step occurs in a contact lens mold.

Claim 37. (canceled)

Claim 38. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein an effective amount of at least one cross-linking monomeric component is present during the polymerizing step.

Claim 39. (canceled)

Claim 40. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the water soluble polymer component and the hydrophilic polymeric material form an interpenetrating network or a psuedo interpenetrating network in the contact lens body.

Claim 41. (canceled)

Claim 42. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of hydrophillic vinylic monomers, such as vinyl (C₄-C₄₅)alkyl ethers, vinyl (C₇-C₄₉) alkenoic acids and the like and mixtures thereof; hydroxy substituted (C₅-C₄₅) alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl and polyalkoxy-alkyl and mono- or bi-cycloaliphatic fumarates, maleates, acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides and methacrylamides, and the like and mixtures thereof; acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, the corresponding amino or mono- and di-(lower alkyl) amino substituted acrylic monomers and the like and mixtures thereof; and vinyl-lactams and the like and mixtures thereof.

Claim 43. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the water soluble polymer component is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene glycols, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polymethacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 44. (original) The method of claim 34 which further comprises placing a liquid medium in the container.

Claim 45. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the liquid medium includes an amount of the water soluble polymer component in addition to that present in the contact lens body.

Claim 46. (canceled)

Claim 47. (canceled)